

In the drawings:

Please insert two new drawing sheets appended hereto.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated November 14, 2007, an objection has been stated to this application because no drawings were submitted with the application, whereby the application has been examined based on the drawings which are a part of the priority document filed with this application. Although the applicant's file reflects that drawings were submitted with the application, a complete set of drawings are submitted herewith, each labeled as "New Sheet". The drawings correspond to those in the priority document, whereby no new matter is being added.

The Office Action also objected to the specification on the grounds that the abstract uses certain phrases which the Office Action suggests be avoided. Accordingly, by the above amendment to the specification, the abstract has been appropriately revised.

The Office Action also rejected claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 USC 102(b) as assertedly being anticipated by Wassenhoven et al U.S. Patent 5,509,261. The subject matter of claim 2 was not addressed in the narrative portion of the Office Action, but claim 2 was indicated to be "objected to" on summary form PTOL-326 accompanying the Office Action, whereby the applicant understands that the subject matter of claim 2 has been found to be patentable and the claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For reasons more fully explained below, the applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of independent claim 1 is allowable, whereby the rewriting of claim 2 should be unnecessary. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Briefly summarized, the present invention provides an improved method of open end rotor spinning of so-called "effect" yarns, i.e., yarns which are intentionally made with alternating thick and thin regions, called "effects" and "webs," over the lengthwise extent of the

yarn. As in the formation of any yarn, periodic stoppages of the spinning process, typically associated with an interruption (breakage) in the yarn being spun, will occasionally occur, requiring the terminal end of the previously spun yarn to be pieced to a leading end of the yarn being spun while simultaneously returning the spinning rotor to an operational speed. The actual reconnection made between the two yarn ends is called a "piecer" and is followed by a length of yarn, called a "piecing region," formed during the completion of the spinning re-start operation, referred to as the "run-up phase". The piecer connection itself will occupy only about a 100 mm. portion in the length of the reconnected yarn but the piecing region will typically extend for several meters in the spun yarn following the piecer, representing the length of yarn produced during the time required for the "run-up phase" to return the spinning rotor to full spinning speed to resume the normal effect spinning operation.

The problem addressed by the present invention is that the known mechanisms provided on open-end spinning machines for performing a piecing operation are designed for a typical ordinary spinning operation wherein it is desirable to maintain a consistently uniform yarn thickness without relatively thick or thin locations. Thus, in the use of such known piecing mechanisms for the restart of an effect yarn spinning operation, the piecing region of yarn formed during the spinning re-start operation will have a uniform yarn thickness running several meters in length without the desired alternating webs and effects produced during the normal effect spinning operation. The presence of such a lengthy region of uniform thickness in an effect yarn otherwise having alternating webs and effects is undesirable and results in defective areas in fabrics produced from the yarns.

The present invention seeks to overcome the problems associated with the use of known piecing mechanisms in the spinning of effect yarns and, most fundamentally, provides for the

control of the so-called "run-up phase" during which the yarn is pieced, i.e., reconnected, while the spinning rotor is accelerated to return it to an operating speed, such that alternating webs and effects are produced in the piecing region of the yarn generally similar to the remainder of the yarn produced during normal ongoing effect spinning.

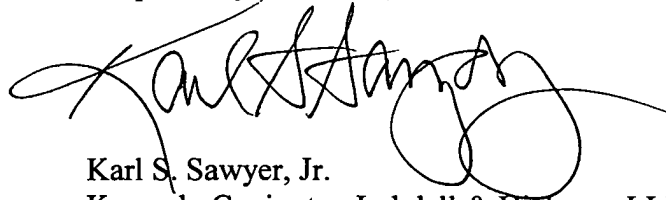
It is believed that claim 1 as originally presented brings out this fundamental distinction of the present invention over the prior art, but the applicant has presented amendments in claim 1 to insure these distinctions are clearly understood. Claim 7, which is directed to the resultant effect yarn itself, has been similarly amended.

The cited Wassenhoven et al reference clearly does not disclose nor even remotely suggest these unique features of the present invention. The Office Action correctly points out that Wassenhoven et al discloses an embodiment of their invention adapted for the formation of effect yarns (Column 7, lines 12-35), but such portion of the Wassenhoven et al disclosure concerns the normal spinning operation wherein the spinning rotor is operated at full running speed. This portion of the Wassenhoven et al specification does not teach or disclose the manner in which the methodology of Wassenhoven et al is to be carried out during a yarn piecing operation. On the contrary, Wassenhoven et al otherwise makes clear that, during yarn piecing, the piecing operation is to be controlled such that the yarn diameter is maintained uniform, i.e., without effects (see, e.g., Column 1, lines 51-55).

As such, the Wassenhoven et al reference is merely representative of the prior state of the art discussed above wherein yarn piecing in the course of the spinning of effect yarns produces an undesirable non-effect length of yarn without alternating thick and thin portions. Accordingly, instead of anticipating and teaching the present invention, Wassenhoven et al actually teaches away from the present invention.

For all of the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the standing claims of this application patentably define the present invention over the prior art. Favorable reconsideration of this application and prompt issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl S. Sawyer, Jr.', with a large, stylized circular flourish at the end.

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Attachments

Two new drawing sheets are attached hereto.